

Claims

Please replace the currently pending claims with the following amended claims:

41. (Previously Presented). A smoke filter comprising a first portion and a second portion, said first portion being closed against particulate material flow and said second portion providing a through path for particulate material flow, said first portion and said second portion being separated by barrier means, said barrier means is formed from a vapour porous polymeric material having pores therein, which pores have a pore size of less than about 0.1 μm .

42. (Currently Amended). A smoke filter according to claim [[1]] 41, wherein the barrier means is porous to the vapour phase of smoke.

43. (Currently Amended). A smoke filter according to claim [[1]] 41, wherein said barrier means is formed from a flexible material.

44. (Currently Amended). A smoke filter according to claims [[1]] 41, wherein said polymeric material is selected from the group consisting of polypropylene, polyethylene, polyvinylidene fluoride, polyvinyl chloride, polycarbonate, nylon, TeflonTM (PTFE), cellulose acetate or nitrocellulose.

45. (Currently Amended). A smoke filter according to claim [[1]] 41, wherein said first portion of the tobacco smoke filter comprises an adsorbent material.

46. (Currently Amended). A smoke filter according to claim [[5]] 45, wherein said adsorbent material is a general adsorbent.

47. (Currently Amended). A smoke filter according to claim [[6]] 46, wherein said general adsorbent is a carbonaceous material.

48. (Currently Amended). A smoke filter according to claim [[7]] 47, wherein said carbonaceous material is in the form of a thread, particles/granules, cloth, paper or a reconstituted carbon-containing paper.

49. (Currently Amended). A smoke filter according to claim [[6]] 46, wherein said general adsorbent is a non-carbonaceous material selected from the group consisting of zeolite, silica, meerschaum, aluminium oxide or combinations thereof.

50. (Currently Amended). A smoke filter according to claim [[1]] 41, wherein said first portion of said smoke filter comprises a catalyst.

51. (Currently Amended). A smoke filter according to claim [[10]] 50, wherein said catalyst facilitates the conversion of carbon monoxide (CO) to carbon dioxide (CO₂) in the vapour phase of the smoke.

52. (Currently Amended). A smoke filter according to claim [[11]] 51, wherein said catalyst is selected from the group consisting of transition metal oxides, silica, alumina, zeolites, impregnated carbon.

53. (Currently Amended). A smoke filter according to claim [[1]] 41, wherein said first portion of said smoke filter comprises a selective adsorbent.

54. (Currently Amended). A smoke filter according to claim [[13]] 53, wherein said selective adsorbent material is selected from the group consisting of an ion-exchange resin, zeolite or silica.

55. (Currently Amended). A smoke filter according to claim [[1]] 41, wherein said first portion comprises an adsorbent and a catalyst.

56. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended). A smoke filter according to claim [[1]] 41, wherein said filter further comprises a third portion, which third portion comprises an adsorbent.

57. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended). A smoke filter according to claim [[16]] 56, wherein said third portion is located upstream of said first portion of the filter.

58. (Currently Amended). A smoke filter according to claims [[1]] 41, wherein said second portion of said filter comprises a conventional smoke filtration material.

59. (Currently Amended). A smoke filter according to claim [[18]] 58, wherein said conventional smoke filtration material is one or more of cellulose acetate, paper and polypropylene.

60. (Currently Amended). A smoke filter according to claim [[1]] 41, wherein said first and said second portions are in co-axial alignment.

61. (Currently Amended). A smoke filter according to claim [[20]] 60, wherein said first portion forms an inner core and said second portion forms an outer annulus of a core-annulus arrangement.

62. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended). A smoke filter according to claim [[20]] 60, wherein said second portion forms a core and said first portion forms an outer annulus of a core-annulus arrangement.

63. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended). A smoke filter according to claim [[1]] 41, wherein said first portion is formed of a number of discrete, substantially longitudinal segments arranged in co-axial alignment within said second portion of said filter.

64. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended). A smoke filter according to claim [[23]] 63, wherein each segment of said first portion is separated from said second portion by barrier means.

65. (Currently Amended). A smoke filter according to claim [[1]] 41, wherein said first portion is closed to the through flow of particulate phase material at the upstream end thereof.

66. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended). A smoke filter according to claim [[25]] 65, wherein closure of said first portion is achieved by a plug.

67. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended). A smoke filter according to claim [[26]] 66, wherein said plug is formed from a high pressure drop cellulose acetate, plastic, metal or the barrier material described of claim 4.

68. (Currently Amended). A smoke filter according to claim [[1]] 41, wherein said filter further comprises additional portions of conventional smoke filtration material.

69. (Currently Amended). A smoke filter according to claim [[28]] 41, wherein at least said first~~[[,]]~~ and second ~~and third (if present)~~ portions are in co-axial alignment with at least one additional filter portion.

70. (Currently Amended). A smoke filter according to claim [[29]] 56, wherein said at least one additional portion of said filter is in end-to-end abutment with said first, second and third ~~(if present)~~ portions of the filter.

71. (Currently Amended). A smoke filter according to claim [[1]] 68, wherein said additional ~~portion(s)~~ is portions are comprised of cellulose acetate.

72. (Currently Amended). A smoking article comprising a smoke filter according to claim [[1]] 41 in combination with a rod of smoking material wrapped in a wrapper.

73. (Currently Amended). A smoking article according to claim [[32]] 72, wherein said smoking material comprises a flavourant.

74. (Currently Amended). A smoking article according to claim [[33]] 73, wherein said flavourant is in stabilized or encapsulated form.

75. (Currently Amended). A smoking article according to Claim [[33]] 73, wherein said flavourant is a non-volatile flavourant.